

# CONSUMER PROTECTION



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# News

September 2001 Edition

Dear Wisconsin Children's Safety Advocates:

In August 2001, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission issued **five (5) recalls relating to products affecting children and two (2) safety advisories**. Attached is a summary of the releases identifying the product, problem and what should be done with the recalled product.

We have found that not all of the recalls are picked up by the news media as they occur. This monthly summary will give you the opportunity to review all of the children's product safety recalls for the past month.

If you are interested in a complete text of the recall, double click on the hyperlink at the end of the recall description. This will take you to the CPSC website and the actual recall notice. If you have other product safety questions you may call our toll free number at **(800) 422-7128 and then press "zero" (0) to speak with Product Safety**. You should leave your name, your organization's name and a phone number.

Following is a listing of the 7 "KIDS" recalls & advisories by title and identification number:

- ❖ Kolcraft is recalling LiteSport Strollers. #01-214
- ❖ Kids "R" Us and Babies "R" Us are recalling Children's Cargo Pants. #01-217
- ❖ XL Machine Ltd. Is recalling Dollhouse Furniture Sets sold at Target Stores. #01-219
- ❖ World Industries is recalling Skateboard Helmets. #01-220
- ❖ STK International is recalling Children's Toys. #01-221
- ❖ Report finds more Deaths on Home Playgrounds than Public Playgrounds. #01-213
- ❖ Motorized Scooter use increases and Injuries Climb. #01-222

We hope you find this service of value and that it assists you to:

## "KEEP YOUR KIDS SAFE!"

# KEEP YOUR KIDS SAFE

**Release Number:** 01-214 Kolcraft Enterprises, Inc., of Chicago, IL, is voluntarily recalling about 115,000 strollers. The recall includes only the Kolcraft LiteSport strollers, model number 36122. A label with the word "LiteSport" can be found on the front of the footrest. The model number can be found on a label on the back leg frame of the stroller. These strollers were manufactured from December 1997 through December 1999. The manufacture date is below the model number on the back leg frame label. "Kolcraft" is written on the front of the stroller. Department and juvenile products stores nationwide sold these strollers from December 1997 through December 2000 for about \$30.

**Problem:** Lock mechanisms, found on both sides of the stroller, can break and cause the stroller to suddenly collapse. When the strollers collapse, babies can fall and suffer injuries.

**What to do:** Consumers should stop using the strollers immediately and call Kolcraft to receive a free repair kit. For more information, call Kolcraft toll-free at (800) 922-2130 anytime.

- <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml01/01214.html>

**Release Number:** 01-217 Kids "R" Us and Babies "R" Us, divisions of Toys "R" Us Inc., of Paramus, N.J., are voluntarily recalling about 7,000 children's cargo pants. The recalled pants are navy, khaki, or stone with different color stitching around the pockets. The pants have an elastic waistband and an elastic draw-cord. A label on the rear inside seam reads "Koala Baby" or "Little Legends" and the care label reads in part "Made in Thailand." The pants were sold in both newborn and infant sizes. Kids "R" Us and Babies "R" Us stores nationwide and some Toys "R" Us stores sold these pants from June 2001 through July 2001 for about \$10.

**Problem:** The toggle on the pockets of the pants can break off, posing a choking hazard to young children.

**What to do:** Consumers should immediately remove and discard the two toggles on the leg pockets. The pants then can be worn without the toggle. For more information on this recall contact Toys "R" Us at (888) 243-6337 between 9 a.m.

and 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday or log on to the company's web site at [www.toysrus.com](http://www.toysrus.com) and select Kids "R" Us or Babies "R" Us for details on product recalls.

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<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml01/01217.html>

**Release Number:** 01-219 XL Machine Ltd., of Eden Prairie, Minn., is voluntarily recalling about 10,000 sets of dollhouse bathroom furniture. The Little Tree natural wood dollhouse bathroom furniture sets contain a tub, sink with mirror, toilet, shower, bench, towel rack and a wooden doll. The doll has hair made of yarn and bendable wire legs and arms. The fixtures on the bathroom furniture are painted yellow. The packaging for the set reads "Little Tree," "Distributed by Target Corporation," and "MADE IN CHINA." Target stores nationwide sold these furniture sets from August 2000 through June 2001 for about \$15.

**Problem:** The yellow paint on the furniture contains lead, which can present a risk of lead poisoning to young children.

**What to do:** Consumers should immediately take these dollhouse furniture sets away from children, and return the sets to the Target store where purchased for a refund. For more information, call XL Machine Ltd. at (866) 746-8097 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. CT Monday through Friday, or visit Target's web site at [www.target.com](http://www.target.com).

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<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml01/01219.html>

**Release Number:** 01-220 World Industries Inc., of Huntington Beach, Calif., is voluntarily recalling 10,000 skateboard helmets. The recalled helmets come in black, blue and white and have the name "World Industries" printed on the chin strap, the back of the helmet, and the inside padding. On the sides of the helmet, yellow and blue cartoon characters can be seen shooting fire from a gun. Two labels inside of the helmet read in part, "Certified CPSC 16CFR1203," "Warning This Helmet Is Not For Motor Vehicle" and "Made

in China." Retail outlets, chains and catalogs nationwide sold the helmets from October 2000 through May 2001 for about \$40.

**Problem:** These helmets failed impact testing required under CPSC's Safety Standard for Bicycle Helmets. Riders wearing these helmets are not adequately protected from falls and could suffer head injuries or death.

**What to do:** Consumers should stop using these helmets immediately and return them to the stores where purchased for a full refund. Consumers also can call World Industries toll-free at (888) 338-4562 between 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. PT Monday through Friday.

- <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml01/01220.html>

**Release Number:** 01-221 STK International, of Los Angeles, Calif., is recalling about 110,000 children's toys. The following information will help consumers identify the recalled children's toys: "2 PC Tambourine Set": Two tambourines consisting of a colorful plastic ring with three balls attached. Inside of the balls are beads that create a rattle sound when shaken. On each side of the tambourine is a sticker with a female cartoon character and the number 985. "Bathtime Water Wheel": A multi-colored plastic toy with a suction cup base and six small cups attached to a water wheel. "Made in China NO:368" is printed on the back of the water wheel. "Funny Loco Wind-Up": A multi-colored train with a pig character on a sticker placed on both sides of the toy. "Made in China NO:883" is printed on the back of the train. "Pull Back Duck in Boat": A plastic blue and white boat with colored stickers on the side, a transparent red windshield, and white duck mounted on top of the boat. The toy also comes with a miniature fishing pole and a plastic lobster. A yellow sticker on boat reads, "My Baby Products" and "PULLBACK DUCKS IN BOAT, MADE IN CHINA." Dollar stores nationwide sold these toys from September 1999 through May 2001 for about \$1.

**Problem:** The toys can break causing small balls to be released, posing a choking hazard to young children.

**What to do:** Consumer should take the toys away from children immediately, and return them to STK International for a full refund. Consumers should call STK International toll-free at (800) 536-

7855 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. PT Monday through Friday for information about where to send the toys.

- <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml01/01221.html>

**Release Number:** 01-213 A new report shows that over a ten-year period, more deaths to children occurred on backyard playgrounds than on public playgrounds. From 1990 to August 2000, the Consumer Product Safety Commission has reports of nearly 150 deaths to children under the age of 15 involving playground equipment; at least 90 of these occurred in a home setting. Almost three-fourths of the deaths in home locations resulted from hangings from ropes, cords, homemade rope swings, and other similar items. New safety standards, aimed at reducing the risk of strangulation, require that ropes be secured at both ends and that makers of home equipment warn against attaching additional ropes.

Playground equipment is also a leading cause of injuries to children. In 1999 alone, it is estimated that there were more than 200,000 playground-equipment injuries, with almost 47,000 injuries on home playgrounds to children under age 15. The proportion of pre-school children (younger than age 5) injured on playground equipment was higher on home playgrounds than on playgrounds in general. Almost 40 percent of those injured at home were younger than 5 years, as compared with about 27 percent on other playgrounds.

CPSC and KaBOOM! are teaming up to reduce playground hazards by providing parents with safety information. Parents are encouraged to install and maintain protective surfacing, eliminate unsafe ropes and check for potentially hazardous hooks and edges on swings and slides on home playgrounds.

To help prevent injuries from falls and other hazards on home playgrounds, the following safety tips are recommended:

- Install and maintain at least 9 inches of wood chips, mulch, or shredded rubber for play equipment up to 7 feet high. If sand or pea gravel is used, install at least a 9-inch layer for play equipment up to 5 feet high. Or, use surfacing mats made of safety-tested rubber or rubber-like materials.

- Install protective surfacing at least six feet in all directions from play equipment. For swings, the surface should extend, in back and front, twice the height of the suspending bar.
- Never attach ropes, jump ropes, clotheslines, or pet leashes to the equipment. This can present a serious strangulation hazard to children.
- Smooth sharp points or edges, and cover open "S" hooks or protruding bolts.
- Check for openings in guardrails or between ladder rungs. Spaces should be either less than 3 1/2 inches or more than 9 inches so that they don't present an entrapment hazard.
- Always supervise young children to make sure they are safe.

CPSC, in partnership with KaBOOM!, is issuing a "Home Playground Safety Checklist" to educate parents about creating safe home playgrounds for their kids. To order a free copy of the checklist, call the Federal Consumer Information Center (FCIC) toll-free at (888) 878-3256 and ask for item 627H, or go to the FCIC website at [www.pueblo.gsa.gov](http://www.pueblo.gsa.gov). Consumers also can order the checklist by sending their name and address to FCIC, Dept. 627H, Pueblo, Colo. 81009.

• <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml01/01213.html>

**Release Number:** 01-222 The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission reported 2,250 emergency room-treated injuries associated with motorized scooters in the first 7 months of this year. If injuries continue at this rate, the total estimate for 2001 is expected to show a marked increase over 2000. The first full year in which CPSC collected data on these injuries was 1999. In 2000, there were an estimated 4,390 hospital emergency room treated injuries associated with motorized scooters. This represents more than a 200-percent increase over the 1999 estimate of 1,330 injuries.

CPSC is aware of at least three deaths associated with motorized scooters. Two of the deaths involved children, including a 6-year-old boy in California who died after falling off a motorized scooter and an 11-year-old boy in Pennsylvania who died when the motorized scooter he was riding crashed into a truck. Also, a 46-year-old man died in California after being struck by an automobile. All of the victims

suffered head injuries; none was wearing a helmet.

CPSC recommends that riders wear the same safety gear as we recommend for non-powered scooters - a helmet, and knee and elbow pads. Sturdy shoes also are important.

In 2000, an estimated 39 percent of the injuries occurred to children under 15 years of age. Most injuries occurred to the arms, legs, faces, and heads. The most common injuries were fractures.

Motorized scooters are increasing in popularity. They are two-wheel scooters, similar to the unpowered scooters, but equipped with either a small 2-cycle gasoline engine or an electric motor and a battery. Some manufacturers are retrofitting stocks of non-powered scooters with electric motors. In addition, kits are available to retrofit non-powered scooters. The gasoline-powered scooters usually cost between \$400 and \$1,300. The electric scooters range from under \$200 to about \$1,000.

Protective gear, including helmet and knee and elbow pads, is available for less than \$35. CPSC recommends the following safety guidelines:

- Wear a bicycle helmet that meets CPSC's standard, along with knee and elbow pads.
- Wear sturdy shoes.
- Owners of motorized scooters should check with local authorities for riding guidelines and restrictions.
- Do not ride at night.
- Children under 12 should not ride motorized scooters.

• <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml01/01222.html>

If you would like to sign up for the Keep Your Kids Safe newsletter, please visit our webpage at <http://datcp.state.wi.us> or you can contact Michelle Reinen at (608) 224-4988 or [michelle.reinen@datcp.state.wi.us](mailto:michelle.reinen@datcp.state.wi.us). Be sure to provide your name, telephone number and e-mail address.

If you have any questions or want to file a complaint regarding an unsafe product, please contact:

WI Bureau of Consumer Protection,  
Regulation & Safety Section  
1-800-422-7128 (toll free in Wisconsin)  
or (608) 224-4988